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presents

Chapter 1

YASASHII EPILOGUE

by Moch meko

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Mochimeko

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Mochimeko

I'm just hard boiled from head to toe.

やさしいエピローグ

やさしいエピローグ

モチメ子 Mochimeko

おそ松くん ヒーロー contents

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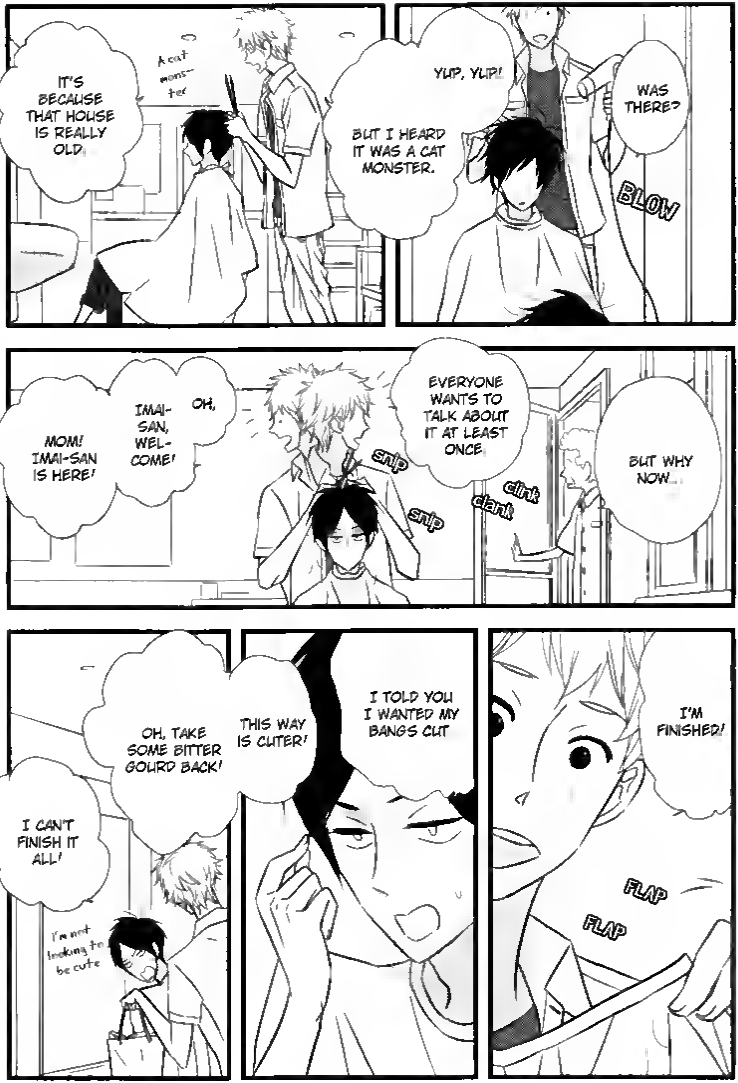
mi-n
mi-n
mi-n
mi-n
mi-n
mi-n
ding
dong
SATOU-SAN, PUT THE MISO IN.
YES!
KOUDA-KUN, GET THE TRAYS!
CLANG
YES!
Vrrrrrr
chop
chop
chop
YOKOYAMA-SAN, CUT THE WATERMELON.
THUD
mix
mix
YES!
CLANK
CLANK

It's so hot
mi-n
mi-n
mi-n
mi-n
mi-n
YOU TOO!
mi-n
GOOD WORK!
GOOD WORK TODAY!
mi-n
mi-n
Nao-chan!
Are you going back already?
twitch
I'll come everyday!
You're going to be the lifeguard for summer again this year?
YEAH
Let's swim together!
Lunch was good today, too!
Hey, come over here!
That's nice!
KYAA
KYAA

There's a rumor going around!
Yeah! You know the empty house over there?
The really old one
The woman living there a long time ago died from a disease
And then the people who lived there all moved away
Oh, do you like scary stories?
I'm not good with them...
KYAA
KYAA
But at night, it appears!
KYAA
It's definitely the woman's ghost!
Right??
KYAA
KYAA
Hair Salon
せりざわ
WE USED TO HEAR STORIES LIKE THAT WHEN WE WERE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, TOO


A cat monster
IT'S BECAUSE THAT HOUSE IS REALLY OLD.
YUP, YUP!
BUT I HEARD IT WAS A CAT MONSTER.
WAS THERE?
BLOW
MOM! IMAI-SAN IS HERE!
IMAI-SAN, WELCOME!
OH,
snip
snip
clink
clank
EVERYONE WANTS TO TALK ABOUT IT AT LEAST ONCE.
BUT WHY NOW...
I'M NOT LOOKING TO BE CUTE
I CAN'T FINISH IT ALL!
OH, TAKE SOME BITTER GOURD BACK!
THIS WAY IS CUTER!
I TOLD YOU I WANTED MY BANGS CUT
I'M FINISHED!
FLAP
FLAP

CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
That isn't an amount that one person can eat
FULL OF COMPLEXES
IS HOW I DESCRIBE MYSELF.
OTHER THAN MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND, SATORU WHO TOOK OVER HIS PARENT'S SALON, ALL MY CLASSMATES WENT TO THE CITY AND WORK A RESPECTABLE JOB
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
COMPARED TO THAT, SOMEONE LIKE ME WHO COULDN'T TAKE THE JOB IN THE CITY AND RAN BACK TO THE COUNTRY AND LIVES BY HAVING PART TIME JOBS WILL OBVIOUSLY HAVE AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX

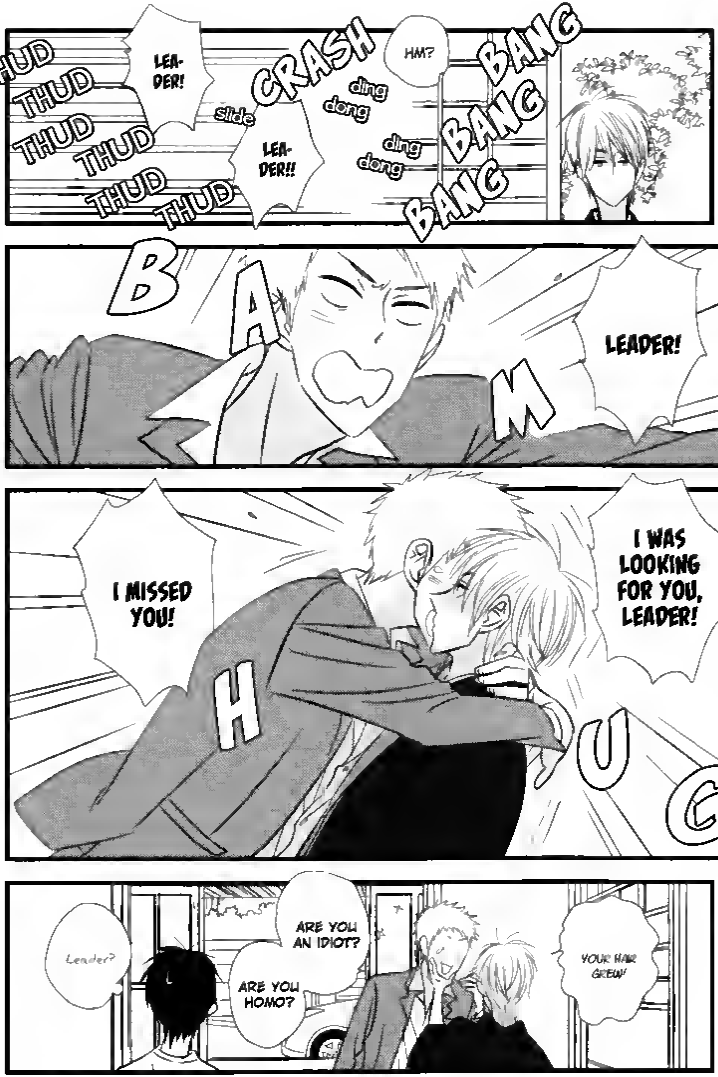
I FEEL LIKE I'M THE ONLY ONE NOT WORKING HARD
Ah—
CREAK
Crap, I just remembered
Behind the bridge,
GULP...
CREAK
CREAK
KYAA
It comes out!
it's that house

HM?
blow
slide
..!!
pale
HUH?
HEY!
back is away
CRASH
AH!
WHOA!
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
OH MAN.

CLING
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I CAN'T REALLY GET IT RIGHT, BUT THIS SHOULD BE FINE
HMM.
I'M SORRY...
BUT WOULD YOU NORMALLY BE THAT SURPRISED?
OH,
I WAS SURPRISED BECAUSE I THOUGHT THIS HOUSE WAS EMPTY...
I'M SORRY I-
I'M A COOK FOR THE SCHOOL LUNCH CENTER FOR THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
I'M KOUDA NAOYA.
DO YOU WORK AROUND HERE?
I MOVED IN HERE LAST WEEK, MY NAME IS NOJIMA WATARU.
NICE TO MEET YOU.

NAOYA-KUN
DID YOU ALREADY HAVE DINNER?
NO
NOT YET
OH,
YOU DON'T HAVE TO REPAY ANYTHING
TOMO-RROW I'LL REPAY-
THANK YOU FOR TREATING ME
THEN I'LL BE ON MY WAY
HUH?
NO I'D FEEL BAD.
MY TREAT
DO YOU WANT TO EAT TOGE-THER?
THIS CAN BE YOUR THANKS
SO I'M REALLY HAPPY TO BE TALKING WITH SOMEONE...
I LIVE ALONE SO I HAVEN'T BEEN AROUND ANYONE RECENTLY,
ARE THERE GOOD RES-TAURANTS AROUND HERE?
I'VE ONLY BEEN EATING BENTOS FROM THE CORNER SHOP...
THAT'D BE GREAT.
THEN HOW ABOUT SPLITTING THE BILL?

I GOT SOME BITTER GOURD FROM MY FRIEND, AND I WAS PLANNING ON MAKING BITTER GOURD CHANPURU.
WOW, YOU CAN MAKE SUCH AMAZING DISHES
T/N: Chanpuru is an Okinawan stir fried dish
UM... IF IT'S ALRIGHT WITH YOU, I CAN MAKE DINNER HERE
HUH? IS THAT OKAY?
WELL I MAKE IT FOR WORK SOME-TIMES.
OH RIGHT, YOU WORK IN THE KIT-CHEN
UM I... BECAUSE I'M SHORT, I'M USUALLY MIS-TAKEN FOR A STUDENT
BUT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I WASN'T MISTAKEN FOR ONE
SO I'M REALLY HAPPY
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
What a cute smile
RIGHT BACK AT YOU, I HAVEN'T HAD A HOME COOKED MEAL IN SO LONG. I'M EXCITED
I'LL MAKE IT SOON
GARRRGH


THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
LEA-
DER!
slide
LEA-
DER!!
CRASH
ding
dong
ding
dong
HM?
BANG
BANG
BANG
B
A
M
LEADER!
I MISSED
YOU!
H
I WAS
LOOKING
FOR YOU,
LEADER!
U
G
Leader?
ARE YOU
AN IDIOT?
ARE YOU
HOMO?
YOUR HAIR
GREW!

EVEN THOUGH NAOYA-KUN WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO MAKE IT FOR ME!
WHY ARE YOU EATING CHANPURU WITH US?!
I FINALLY... FINALLY FOUND YOU
I SERIOUSLY... AFTER YOU DISAPPEARED I LOOKED FOR YOU ALL OVER JAPAN
"SOB"
THEN DIE!
I'M SO HAPPY I COULD DIE!
LEADER, ARE YOU NOT HAPPY SEEING ME AGAIN?!
Living in the cell?
IS IT BECAUSE WHEN YOU WERE IN THE CELL YOU WERE SURROUNDED BY MEN, SO YOU BECAME LIKE THAT?!
BEFORE, YOU WERE ALWAYS SURROUNDED BY WOMEN!
ANY-WAY, WHO'S THIS SHORTIE?!
ANGRY
PUNCH
STOP POINTING FINGERS, NAKANO!
KICK

NAOYA-KUN CAN COOK REALLY WELL, HAS A STRAIGHT EDGE JOB, A WD LIVES BY WORKING REAL-LY HARD!
SO HE SHOULDN'T BE CALLED SHORTY BY A DUMBASS LIKE YOU!
LEA-
LEADER!
I JUST WANTED YOU TO-
YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS?
YOU JUDGE PEOPLE BY THEIR AP-PEARANCES
FROM NOW ON JUST THINK EVERYONE AROUND YOU IS SOMEONE YOU SHOULD RESPECT
DON'T FORGET YOU'RE BEING ALLOWED TO STAY ALIVE
I'M SO SORRY!
I'M SORRY, NAOYA-KUN,
THAT MY UNDERLING HERE WAS SO RUDE
SIGH
I'LL BEAT HIM UP LATER SO PLEASE FORGIVE HIM
UM, NO-

UM...
YOU JUST SIT THERE AND APOLOGIZE FOR MAKING ME BOW MY HEAD
TEARS
SO YOU THOUGHT OF ME AS YOUR UNDERLING!
LEADER!!
.....!!
TWITCH
UM, I
TEARS
FOR LOOKING LIKE THIS EVEN THOUGH I'M A GUY
I-
I'M SORRY
IT'S BECAUSE YOU SUDDENLY BECAME SO VIOLENT!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU CALLED HIM A SHORTY!
NOW LOOK YOU IDIOT!

IT WAS A FIRST TIME FOR ME
FOR SOMEONE TO THINK OF ME AS A HUMAN BEING EVEN THOUGH I'M SO HALF-ASSED
SO I WAS REALLY HAPPY
THERE'S NO NEED TO LOOK DOWN ON YOURSELF.
YOU'RE WORKING REALLY HARD.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

OH,
SO SOMEONE LIVES THERE.
WHAT KIND OF PERSON WAS HE?
HE WAS, REALLY SOME-THING
DO YOU WANT TO TALK WHILE I SHAMPOO YOUR HAIR?
IT'S ON THE HOUSE
WELL IT'S NOT BUSY NOW
IS THIS PLACE MAKING MONEY...
SO? HE WAS REALLY WHAT?
WHEN HE WOULD TALK, HE SOUNDED SO CONFIDENT AND MATURE
EVEN FROM A GUY'S POINT OF VIEW, HE WAS REALLY COOL
I'm telling you back
He looks happy
WHAT DOES HE DO?

WHOA!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
Splash
.....
.....
.....
Splash
WELL, HE WAS CALLED LEADER SO...
JEEZ WAO-CHAN
YOU'RE GETTING WET!
drip
drip
Why didn't I realize?
LIKE I SAID
DON'T CALL ME LEADER!
CALL ME WATARU-KUN
FROM NOW ON
THERE ARE NO LEADERS OR MEMBERS
NOJIMA GROUP HAS BROKEN UP
BUT!
FOR ME LEADER CAN ONLY BE LEADER

IT'S BECAUSE YOU SAY SUCH SISSY THINGS THAT YOU'RE LIKE THIS.
.....
SO I WAS PREPARING FOR YOU TO BE RELEASED AND HELP YOU REBUILD THE GROUP
I-I WAS HOPING FOR THE REVIVAL OF THE NOJIMA GROUP
ANYWAY, DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO GO BACK YESTERDAY?
WHAT ARE YOU? A STALKER?!
Lea-der
Nojima group
DON'T I ALWAYS TELL YOU THAT MEN SHOULD KNOW WHEN IT'S TIME TO GIVE UP?
YOU CAN LET SOME THINGS LIKE THAT GO!
I didn't think they'd be in a place like this so I didn't even imagine it was them!
An underground mafia group with over 1,000 followers, feared by other yakuzas! The one and only Nojima group and its leader is here!
BUT YOU ALSO TELL ME TO NEVER GIVE UP!
LEADER, SO YOU REALLY DO LIKE...?
OH!
YOU'RE IN THE WAY SO JUST GO BACK!
NAOYA-KUN IS SUPPOSED TO COME TODAY AND MAKE ME MIKUSAGA!

LEADER!
UM...
THIS GUY SAID HE'S ABOUT TO HEAD BACK TO HIS OWN PLACE, SO LET'S IGNORE HIM AND GO INSIDE

BECAUSE OF YOU, THE LEADER BECAME A HOMO!
NO I DIDN'T.
WELCOME, NAOYA-KUN
PUNCH

NOJIMA-SAN ARE YOU THE LEADER OF THE NOJIMA GROUP?

I...
YOU KNOW ABOUT THE GROUP?
YOU CAN JUST CALL ME WATARU.

I HAVE SOMETHING TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU ABOUT!

WHEN I GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL, THERE WAS A BRIEF PERIOD WHERE I LIVED IN TOKYO
I FORGOT WHEN, BUT WHILE I WAS WALKING WITH MY GIRLFRIEND SOME DELINQUENTS CAME UP.
JEEZ.
KICK
WE WERE ONLY TRYING BORROW YOUR GIRLFRIEND,
BUT YOU'RE TREATING THIS SO SERIOUSLY
WHOA!
WAIT!
Grab
HE'S STILL MOVING!
NOW LOOK AT YOU!
THEN, WE'LL BE BORROWING YOUR GIRLFRIEND FOR A BIT
Nao-chan!
Nao-chan!
YOU GUYS ARE THE MOST DISGUSTING ONES HERE
KICK
YOU'RE SO DISGUSTING

TRYING TO MAKE GIRLS DO THINGS BY FORCE...
JEEZ, THIS IS UNPLEASANT
THIS IS WHY YOU'RE NOT POPULAR.
IF YOU WANT TO BECOME CLOSE WITH THEM, YOU HAVE TO TREAT THEM KINDLY
NOW THEN.
AH-
YOU WORKED REALLY HARD FOR YOU GIRL-FRIEND.
YOU ARE A TRUE MAN

LEADER, YOU'RE SO COOL!
ALTHOUGH MY GIRLFRIEND FOLLOWED YOU AFTER THAT
I JUST WALKED HER BACK HOME
BUT BECAUSE I WASN'T ABLE TO PROTECT MY GIRLFRIEND I WANTED TO THANK YOU.
AT THAT TIME, I COULDN'T OPEN MY EYES SO I DIDN'T KNOW WHO HAD HELPED ME
BUT I LEARNED LATER THAT IT WAS THE NOJIMA GROUP'S LEADER
I THOUGHT I SHOULD PAY YOU BACK SOMEHOW SO I JOINED THE GROUP.
AFTER BECOMING A MEMBER I REALIZED HOW MUCH EVERYONE LOOKED UP TO THE LEADER
SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T HIDE HIS TRUE INTENTIONS FROM THE BEGINNING UNTIL THE END, SOMEONE WHO'S SEVERE, YET KIND
BECAUSE I WAS A PART OF THE LOW RANK, I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HIS NAME OR WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE, BUT I ALWAYS ADMIRED HIM

THE REASON I WAS ARRESTED WAS FOR A DIFFERENT REASON
IT WAS BECAUSE OF SOME GUYS WHO HAD A GRUDGE AGAINST ME
BUT, BECAUSE OF THEM, I WAS ABLE TO THINK ABOUT MANY THINGS DURING MY TIME IN PRISON
AND EVEN NOW, I THINK IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO DISBAND THE NOJIMA GROUP.
NO WAY-
ANYWAY, I'M REALLY HAPPY THAT I WAS ABLE TO MEET YOU AGAIN
BEING ABLE TO LIVE A STRAIGHT-EDGE LIFE, AFTER BEING A PART OF THE UNDERGROUND IS A HARD THING TO DO
!
BUT YOU WERE ABLE TO DO IT AND NOW YOU LIVE SO DILIGENTLY,
I RESPECT YOU.
NO WAY-
SOME-ONE LIKE ME...

I'LL ALSO LIVE A STRAIGHT-EDGE LIFE!
NAOYA-KUN, YOU COOK FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KINDS, RIGHT?
DO YOU DO ANYTHING ELSE?
I DO SOME LABOR WORK SOMETIMES
I'M ALSO STUDYING TO TAKE THE NATIONAL REGISTERED DIETICIAN EXAM.
HUH?
DO YOU WANT TO MAKE DINNER AT MY PLACE AS A PART TIME JOB?
YOU REALLY DON'T NEED TO SPEND MUCH ON DINNER
LEADER!
IF IT'S MEALS, I CAN MAKE THEM!
NO, FIRST YOU SHOULD LEAVE
BE INDE-PENDENT
GO BACK TO TOKYO
AND NEVER COME BACK
WELL IN THE END, I JUST WANT AN EXCUSE TO EAT WITH YOU

WELL, NOWADAYS YOU CAN DO ANYTHING OVER THE INTERNET
IN THIS COUNTRY SIDE
WOW,
A MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT...
YEAH
YOU'RE GONNA TAKE HIS JOB OFFER?
SO?
I probably shouldn't mention that he's an ex-leader of a mafia...
His eyes are sparkling...
IS THAT SO?
I FEEL LIKE IT'S SOMETHING I SHOULD BE DOING RIGHT NOW.

Tap
Tap Tap
NAOYA-KUN, WELCOME!
GOOD EVENING
HUH?
WELL I WAS A LITTLE COLD
fidget
fidget
sparkle
wearing your blanket like that?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
? ?
YES?!
GRAB
ANYWAY, NAOYA-KUN
OH, NO, I'M COMPLETELY FINE NOW
Release
ARE YOU SICK?
HUH?
CAN WE GO TO YOUR PLACE TONIGHT?

WOW
I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A STREET HERE
IT'S A SHORTCUT
It's the ocean
waves crashing
YOU GREW UP IN SUCH A NICE PLACE
I THINK SO TOO
I HADN'T THOUGHT SO BACK THEN
BUT NOW THAT I'VE SEEN THE WORLD OUTSIDE, THERE ARE MANY THINGS I REALIZE NOW

WHERE'S YOUR FAMILY?
MY DAD AND MOM DIED WHEN I WAS LITTLE
Don't worry about it
MY GRANDFATHER WHO HAD RAISED ME ALSO PASSED AWAY 5 YEARS AGO,
SO NOW I'M ALONE
IS THAT SO
I'LL MAKE DINNER SOON
NAOYA-KUN, YOU'RE STUDYING FOR THE NATIONAL DIETICIAN EXAM, RIGHT?
IF YOU'D LIKE I CAN HELP YOU
WATARU-SAN, YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THIS EXAM?
WELL, I CAN TEACH YOU HOW TO STUDY EFFICIENTLY
OH WOW

IF YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT, IT MAKES ME HAPPY I MADE IT.
Blush
SO I THINK YOU'RE REALLY SUITED FOR COOKING
YOU COOK WHILE THINKING ABOUT THE PERSON WHO WILL EAT IT, AND I CAN REALLY TASTE THE LOVE,
He really does have a cute smile
SO WOULD YOU LIKE TO BATHE BEFORE YOU GO?
Twitch
OH, I CAN GET THE BATH READY,
LET'S GO IN TOGETHER
HUH?
NAOYA-KUN,

UM, WATARU-SAN
DON'T TELL ME
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "SO IT'S TRUE"?
STARTLE
SO IT'S TRUE THAT SOMETHING COMES OUT IN THAT HOUSE?
NAOYA-KUN PLEASE LET ME STAY THE NIGHT!
PULL
PULL
I- I HEARD SOME WEIRD SOUNDS FROM THE ATTIC LAST NIGHT!
SO THERE'S STORIES LIKE THAT?
It's hot
IT APPEARS THAT THE PERSON I ADMIRE IS A BIT OF A SCAREDY-CAT